

Appl. No. 10/629,473
Amdt. Dated June 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 0115-031453

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 12-17 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended. New independent claim 18 and claims 19-32 dependent therefrom have been added. Claim 18 is a combination of former claims 1 and 2. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by this Amendment.

Claims 5, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Each of these claims has been amended to address this issue and the amended claims are no longer believed to be indefinite.

Claims 1, 7-9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by the teaching of United States Pat. No. 6,601,506 to Dauer (the Dauer patent). The Dauer patent discloses a web fed rotary offset printing machine, wherein the web path lengths of a plurality of webs are measured and are used to calculate presetting values for the cylinders involved in the printing. There are no buffers used for the webs downstream of the transport rollers. The Examiner indicates that the Dauer patent discloses in Figure 1 four buffers 10, 75, 49 and 55. However, reference numeral 10 designates a rotary offset printing machine itself (page 3, line 7), while reference numbers 75, 49 and 55 designate feeding units. These feeding units are positioned right after the reel changers 11, 12 and 13 and upstream of the transport rollers. The rollers 24-31 are simply web guide rollers (page 3, lines 62-63).

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a device having at least one first buffer being located downstream of said first and second transport rollers. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by the Dauer patent.

Claims 1, 6-7, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from the teaching of United States Pat. No. 5,849,123 to Rice (the Rice patent). The Rice patent teaches an apparatus and method for aligning webs, such as photographic film or paper, where the trailing edge of an expiring web is spliced to the lead edge of a fresh web. The expiring web 104 runs over idle rollers 112. First sensors 114 are arranged between said idle rollers 112 (page

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6, lines 12-19). The fresh web 102 runs over an idle roller 110 (page 3, line 37) and subsequent second sensors 108. There is no separate transport roller provided for the fresh web 102. The fresh web is transported by means of the transport mechanism of expiring web only when both webs have been spliced.

Claim 1 of the present application comprises a first transport roller to pull a first film from a first feed roller, and a second transport roller independent of said first transport roller to pull a second film from a second feed roller. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by the Rice patent.

Claims 1-10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious from the teaching of United States Pat. No. 6,267,714 to Wild, et al (the Wild patent) in view of the teaching of the Dauer patent. Unlike, claim 1, the Wild patent discloses a bag-producing device with first and second rollers 29, which are not independent of each other, but are synchronized. Furthermore, there is no buffer located downstream of said first and second transport rollers. Additionally, the Dauer patent fails to disclose a buffer located downstream of said first and second transport rollers.

Claim 1 of the present application claims a first transport roller to pull a first film from a first feed roller, and a second transport roller independent of said first transport roller to pull a second film from a second feed roller. Claim 1 further claims at least one first buffer being located downstream of said first and second transport roller. Even if one were to combine the teaching of the Wild patent and the Dauer patent, the elements of claim 1 would not be made obvious.

By way of their dependence upon what is believed to be patentably distinct independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-11 and 12-17 are themselves believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

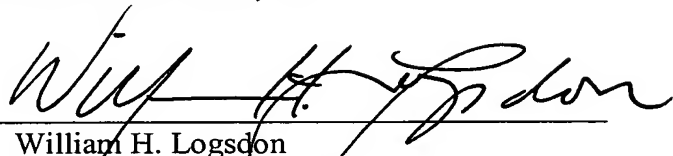
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Reconsideration of claims 1-11 and 12-17 and allowance of claims 1-11 and 13-32 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Logsdon", is written over a horizontal line.

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